

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1063

By Pody

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Jimmie Knight Lancaster of Wilson County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Jimmie Knight Lancaster; and

WHEREAS, Jim Lancaster was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born on June 11, 1929, Mr. Lancaster was the son of Dimple Knight and Edward Lancaster of the Lancaster community in Smith County. He graduated from Gordonsville High School in 1947; and

WHEREAS, he attended Tennessee Technological University on an athletic scholarship and received all conference honors as a single wing tailback; he graduated in 1951 with highest distinction and a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lancaster served with acumen and alacrity as the Agency Manager for the Wilson County Farm Bureau for more than forty-three years; during his tenure, he was a leading performer for the company and accumulated various industry educational credentials, including Chartered Life Underwriter and Chartered Financial Consultant. He held his rank as a top performer for the company for several years after his retirement in 1995; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lancaster served in leadership roles for various community organizations, including the Lebanon Jaycees, Tennessee Tech Alumni Association, Lebanon Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, Lebanon Camp of Gideons International, The Peoples Bank, Cumberland University, and the Boy Scouts; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, he was a recipient of the Jaycees' Distinguished Service Award; the Howard Edgerton Award for Community; Tennessee Tech's Outstanding Service Award; the Boy Scouts' Long Rifle, Silver Beaver, and Good Scout awards;

the Rotary Club's Paul Harris Fellowship Award and Bernie Bass Good Citizenship Award; and the Chamber of Commerce's Lifetime Membership Award; and

WHEREAS, he was honored by Cumberland University with the Order of the Phoenix award and an Honorary Doctorate; he was unanimously selected for induction into the Tennessee Insurance Hall of Fame, and he was a member of the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, a devout man of God, Jim Lancaster was a charter member and former Sunday School Teacher at Westland United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lancaster was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his beloved wife of sixty-seven years, Vondell Green Lancaster; daughter, Celia Oldham; infant daughter, Sally Jane Lancaster; twin brother, Joe Lancaster; granddaughter, Brittany Lancaster; and great-grandson, John Rob Byrd; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his daughter, Lucy (Ewin) Cowley; sons Jim (Debi) Lancaster and John (Penny) Lancaster; son-in-law, Glen Oldham; and a number of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lancaster leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Jimmie Knight Lancaster, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Lancaster.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.